

with respect to those applications, and for other purposes.

S. 3356

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3356, a bill to effectively staff the high-need public elementary schools and secondary schools of the United States with school-based mental health services providers.

S. 3375

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3375, a bill to promote travel and tourism in the United States, to improve the health safety and security of international flights entering the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3382

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3382, a bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Small Business Administration from directly making loans under the 7(a) loan program, and for other purposes.

S. 3403

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3403, a bill to prohibit the disbursement of Federal funds to State and local governments that allow individuals who are not citizens of the United States to vote in any Federal, State, or local election.

S. 3407

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3407, a bill to promote security partnership with Ukraine.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 3412. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to enforce the rule submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services relating to COVID-19 vaccine and mask requirements for Head Start programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3412

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Preventing Mandates on Toddlers Act”.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON FUNDING THE HHS RULE ON HEAD START COVID VACCINE AND MASK REQUIREMENTS.

Notwithstanding any other law, no funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Health and Human Services shall be obligated or expended to—

(1) implement or enforce the rule submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services relating to “Vaccine and Mask Requirements To Mitigate the Spread of COVID-19 in Head Start Programs” (86 Fed. Reg. 68052 (November 30, 2021)); or

(2) promulgate, implement, or enforce any rule, regulation, or other agency statement, that is substantially similar to the rule described in paragraph (1).

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 3422. A bill to establish a grant program to support schools of medicine and schools of osteopathic medicine in underserved areas; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, communities of color and those living in rural and underserved areas face significant barriers to healthcare, including physician shortages that have only been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, in many communities of color and rural areas, there are few pathways to enter the medical profession. While medical school enrollment is up by 30 percent, the number of students from rural areas entering medical school declined by 28 percent between 2002 and 2017, with only 4.3 percent of all incoming medical students coming from rural areas in 2017. Similarly, Black, Hispanic/Latino, and Native American students face several barriers to matriculate and graduate from medical school, and there is significant underrepresentation of these students at all U.S. medical schools with the exception of historically Black medical schools. These medical schools represent 2.6 percent of all medical schools but 15 percent of Black medical students, indicating the important role that these institutions play in increasing the diversity of the physician workforce. Health outcomes for patients of color improve when they receive care from doctors of their own racial or ethnic background, and the shortage of providers of color exacerbates the barriers to care that these communities experience. The COVID-19 pandemic worsened long standing health inequities, and it is critical that we expand the diversity of our physician workforce to tackle these rampant disparities and the systemic biases within our health care system.

This is why I am introducing the Expanding Medical Education Act, which aims to tackle the lack of representation of rural students, underserved students, and students of color in the physician pipeline by encouraging the recruitment, enrollment, and retention of students from disadvantaged backgrounds. The bill would provide grants

through the Health Resources and Services Administration, HRSA, to colleges and universities to establish or expand allopathic or osteopathic medical schools in underserved areas or at minority-serving institutions, including historically Black colleges and universities, HBCUs. These grants can be used for planning and construction of a medical school in an areas in which no other school is based; hiring diverse faculty and staff; recruitment, enrollment, and retention of students; and other purposes to ensure increased representation of rural students, underserved students, and students of color in our physician workforce.

Our rural communities and communities of color face significant challenges accessing healthcare. It is time our physician workforce reflected these communities. We need to diversify our physician pipeline and change the disparity in representation, and this bill will help get us there. I am proud to reintroduce this important legislation to help us get one step closer to ensuring communities across Virginia and the Nation have access to the medical professionals they need. I hope the Senate passes this legislation quickly.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 3427. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a Neuroscience Center of Excellence; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President I rise today with my colleague, Senator BEN RAY LUJÁN, to introduce the Neuroscience Center of Excellence Act of 2021, legislation that would establish a Neuroscience Center of Excellence at the Food and Drug Administration, FDA. This program would be modeled after FDA’s Oncology Center of Excellence, which was authorized through the 21st Century Cures Act. Building off that successful and bipartisan model, I hope we can make critical advances for those living with neurological diseases.

In July, FDA’s Director of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research testified that neuroscience is an area of medicine where there is tremendous unmet need, and neurodegenerative diseases are particularly challenging from both a research and a drug development perspective. I have seen this firsthand as founder and cochairman of the Senate Alzheimer’s Disease Caucus. I have vigorously advocated for record funding increases to support additional NIH research over the past 25 years. Over the past year, many have noted the success of Operation Warp Speed and wondered why we can’t achieve the same rapid progress in other health conditions.

The Neuroscience Center of Excellence would encompass more than 20 neurological diseases, including conditions that are very rare. For example, Huntington’s disease is an inherited

disease characterized by the progressive loss of brain and muscle function. It has sometimes been described as having ALS, Parkinson's, and Alzheimer's simultaneously. It is an autosomal dominant condition, so families with a history of Huntington's disease can see it appear in every generation. In Maine, Nancy Patterson has seen Huntington's disease in four generations of family. In addition, I lost a friend and coworker in former Senator Bill Cohen's office to this devastating disease. Sadly, there is no cure.

Through our bill, this new Neuroscience Center of Excellence would establish several programs aimed at supporting innovation. The first is to identify some of the current and emerging regulatory science and public policy challenges associated with developing medical products for neuroscience diseases and disorders through a series of public meetings and guidances. The Center of Excellence would also establish a program to facilitate both the collection and the systematic use of patient experience data in the development of medical products for neuroscience diseases and disorders.

Another component of the Center's work would be around using digital technologies, an area of much promise. In 2018, the National Academies of Medicine Forum on Neuroscience and Nervous System Disorders hosted a workshop on using mobile technology to advance research and treatment of central nervous system disorders. As Dr. William Marks, head of clinical neurology at Verily Life Sciences, observed, the current state of assessing brain disorders is "exquisitely crude" and there is a large unmet need for better measures of disease burden that are objective, quantitative, more frequently measured, and in the context of normal life.

Finally, the center would help promote inclusion of traditionally underrepresented populations in the research and development of medical products for neuroscience diseases and disorders through public meetings and industry guidance. Senator LUJÁN and I have worked together on this issue before as part of our Equity in Neuroscience and Alzheimer's Clinical Trials Act of 2021. Whether the barrier to participation is a distrust of the medical community or logistics concerns like time and travel, we need to overcome those hurdles in order to ensure the best possible science.

Researchers from the University of South Florida looked at the nine most prevalent and costly diagnosed neurological disorders and found the annual cost totaled nearly \$800 billion. We desperately need to change this trajectory and renew our focus on these critical unmet needs. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 480—TO SUPPORT AN INDEPENDENT AND DEMOCRATIC UKRAINE AGAINST ANY FURTHER RUSSIAN MILITARY INVASION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:.

S. RES. 480

Whereas, on August 24, 1991, the Ukrainian parliament voted overwhelmingly for independence from the Soviet Union and set December 1, 1991, for a national independence referendum;

Whereas, on December 1, 1991, more than 90 percent of Ukrainians voting in the referendum supported independence;

Whereas, by December 25, 1991, the United States joined more than 20 countries, including Russia, in recognizing Ukrainian independence;

Whereas the newly independent Ukraine, while rich in natural resources and human talent, also inherited endemic corruption, an aging Soviet infrastructure, government mismanagement, and significant economic challenges;

Whereas the newly independent Ukraine also inherited one of the world's largest nuclear weapons arsenals;

Whereas, on December 5, 1994, Ukraine joined the United States, Russia, and the United Kingdom in signing the "Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances," in which it agreed to remove all nuclear weapons from its territory in exchange for assurance that Russia would respect its sovereignty;

Whereas, on February 8, 1994, Ukraine was the first member state of the Commonwealth of Independent States to join the Partnership for Peace program of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and has since been recognized as an Enhanced Opportunities Partner;

Whereas, on November 22, 2004, Ukrainians peacefully took to the streets in protest of a fraudulent presidential election, beginning the Orange Revolution and resulting in new free and fair elections;

Whereas, on November 21, 2013, peaceful protests began on Independence Square (Maidan) in Kyiv against the decision by then-President Viktor Yanukovich to suspend signing the Ukraine-European Union (EU) Association Agreement and instead pursue closer ties with the Russian Federation;

Whereas the Maidan protests quickly drew thousands of people and broadened to become a general demonstration in support of Ukraine's integration with the European Union and against widespread Yanukovich regime corruption;

Whereas, from February 18-20, 2014, an estimated 104 people were killed and 2,500 injured as a result of violent crackdowns by authorities against protesters;

Whereas, beginning February 20, 2014, the Russian Federation clandestinely invaded Ukraine, with Russian troops claiming to be Ukrainian separatists, and since then have militarily occupied the regions of Crimea and Donbas;

Whereas, on February 22, 2014, and following months of protests, the Ukrainian

Parliament voted to remove President Yanukovich and hold early presidential election in May;

Whereas, on May 25, 2014, President Petro Poroshenko was elected on a message of strengthening Ukraine's territorial integrity, negotiating with Russia, and strengthening ties with Europe;

Whereas, on July 17, 2014, Russian-backed separatists shot down Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 over eastern Ukraine with Russian missiles, killing all 298 people on board;

Whereas, on September 5, 2014, Ukraine, the Russian Federation, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) signed the Minsk Protocol aimed at ending the conflict, which the Russian Federation continued to violate;

Whereas, on February 12, 2015, a new package of measures to end the conflict in Ukraine was signed, known as Minsk II, provisions of which have still not yet been fully implemented;

Whereas at least 14,000 Ukrainians have been killed defending their homeland and millions more displaced since the conflict with Russia began;

Whereas, on September 1, 2017, the European Union-Ukraine Association Agreement came into force;

Whereas, on April 21, 2019, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was elected on a platform of fighting corruption and restarting peace talks with Russian-backed separatists;

Whereas, on July 16, 2019, the United States Senate unanimously passed S. Res. 74 (116th Congress), marking the fifth anniversary of Ukraine's Revolution of Dignity by honoring the bravery, determination, and sacrifice of the people of Ukraine during and since the Revolution, and condemning continued Russian aggression against Ukraine;

Whereas, in early and again in late 2021, Russia deployed a massive troop and weapons buildup on the border with Ukraine;

Whereas, on December 1, 2021, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said that if Russia decides to once again "use force against Ukraine, then we have made it clear. . . during the NATO Foreign Minister meeting in Latvia today that Russia will then have to pay a high price; there will be serious consequences for Russia. . . And that's a clear message from NATO. . .";

Whereas, on December 7, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden warned Russian President Vladimir Putin that the West would impose "strong economic and other measures" if Russia invades Ukraine; and

Whereas, on December 12, 2021, at a meeting in Liverpool, delegates of the Group of Seven (G7) released a joint statement saying, "Russia should be in no doubt that further military aggression against Ukraine would have massive consequences and severe cost in response. . . We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as the right of any sovereign state to determine its own future.": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) denounces the current Russian military buildup on the Ukraine boarder as provocative, reckless, and contrary to established international norms;

(2) reaffirms unwavering United States support for a secure, democratic, and independent Ukraine free to choose its own leaders and future;

(3) reaffirms unwavering United States and NATO commitment to support the continuing efforts of the Government of Ukraine to restore its territorial integrity by providing consistent political and diplomatic support and additional lethal and non-lethal security assistance to strengthen the defense capabilities of Ukraine on land and sea and in the air; and